



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 22, 2014

025-2012

Jeffries and Blankenship Recognized by Va. Rural Water Assn.

The Virginia Rural Water Association recognized two Town of Culpeper employees at its annual conference in Roanoke last week.

Joey Blankenship, maintenance supervisor for the Department of Environmental Services, and David Jeffries, water utility supervisor, were recognized as Maintenance Technician of the Year and System Specialist Operator of the Year, respectively. Jeffries tied with another nominee from another utility system for the award.

Blankenship, who was been employed by the town for about two years and serving as a supervisor for six months, was nominated by Chief Operator John Morgan.

In the past six months, Blankenship and his three-member crew have addressed several critical issues, according to Morgan.

“The resolution of these issues allowed the plant to continue operation at a very high standard and remain within its permit standards,” Morgan wrote in his nomination letter to VRWA. “Joey (Blankenship) implemented a very extensive preventative maintenance program for both the water and wastewater plants, which will result in significant operation cost savings over the next year.”

Blankenship also is credited with assisting the distribution system crew installing a booster pump, upgrading the water plant’s “superpulsators” and the creation of a computerized work order program.

“Joey has accomplished much over the last six months,” Morgan wrote.

Jeffries, a 24-year veteran of town service, also was nominated by Morgan, who describes Jeffries as a very hands-on supervisor capable of effectively resolving customer issues related to water and sewer distribution systems.

In addition, Jeffries and his six-member crew have handled numerous issues facing the town's water and sewer system as well as upgrading the systems and maintain the lines and inspecting fire hydrants.

"This year, David (Jeffries) supervised and installed 5,500 automated service meters, a major improvement to the town's distribution and billing system," Morgan wrote in his nomination letter.

Jeffries supervised the installation of a booster pump system to increase reliability of water pressure within the system. That project was completed on time and under budget.

The 24-year veteran also is supervising the relocation of utility lines to make way for construction of the VDOT roundabout at James Madison Highway and North Main Street.

Last year, the VRWA recognized the Culpeper water system as the System of the Year. The system tied with the Town of Bluefield.

In 2012, Paula Byers, the town's lab supervisor was named Laboratory Technician of the Year.

"These accolades point out the quality and hard work of our employees," said Town Manager Dewey Cashwell.

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Attached photo from left – David Jeffries and Joey Blankenship